

THE PALMYRA CIRCLE

No. 21 1948

August 6th, 1948

The Army TCS Centennial State arrived at 1.30 yesterday and brought in three bags of mail and two landing passengers came down the little ladder. C.E. Zweisled returning from Honolulu for medical treatment. The other was J.W. Blanner who is here to join George Avery's crew on Maintainance.

There were only a few women up to meet the plane yesterday, possibly as there has not been any Army planes in for three weeks.

The PS boat brought in our new supplies for the paper and the plane today, brought in some other new equipment towards making the paper better as you will see by the new Masthead.

This week there has been some help in getting out the paper. Mrs Avery and Mrs Steed are giving a hand with the typeing and the next few weeks will show a great improvement.

THE PALMYRA PLAYHOUSE NEWS.

Christmas Island received the films that were to be shipped here. They were sent on a plane Wednesday instead of being held for the Centennial State, Thursday.

LATE NEWS

HONOLULU 5th. The mediation board has given up in the H.R.T. dispute and it is up to the Governor to appoint a fact finding committee.

The Union wanted a wire recorder used in the meeting. After this was granted they wanted their full committee to sit in on the meeting and when they were turned down, they walked out of the meeting.

HONOLULU 5th. The Renske trial on Communism before the School Commissioners, in the Federal Court room, drew a record crowd of over 300 today, as the Territories star witnesses were called.

AT SEA 5th. The wreckage of the French plane which has been missing for five days, was found today by a U.S. Coast Guard Cutter. None of the passengers were believed to be alive as the plane only carried emergency rations for two days. There were 52 passengers on board at the time of the crash.

The Army P.S. 368 arrived Saturday evening and made a beautiful approach towards the pier, just like a big liner. She was a welcome sight as she lay off the pier waiting the tugs that did not show up. Thanks are due to Morgan Holms and his crew for their efficient help in unloading the cargo from the 368, and to the volunteers from Alce Youngs crew.

SPORTS.

The Island boys are playing the Maolia Sunday in the first of a series of soft ball games. They also extend a challenge to the married men to get up a team. The loser to pay for two cases of ice cold soda water after the game.

It seems that some of the families tried to play tennis the other evening without waiting for the court to be dried off. Few of them were able to stay on their feet for long. Daisy Watson did a lot of funny steps in staying on her feet. That just goes to show what hula lessons will do for you.

There have been no reports from the fishermen this week, BUT Francis Rightmayer came in with a pole and reel the other evening and wanted some stamps and envelopes. If he is holding out on a big fish story, he is liable be charges for publicity space.

ISLAND NEWS OF HAWAII

HONOLULU Aug 3. Fire raged for five hours almost completely destroying Kairaliu, Kona Hawaii. The nearest fire equipment was in in Hilo, over 115 miles away. Although the Hilo Fire Department, raced to the fire, it had burned its self out before they could reach the town.

HONOLULU Aug 3. Fire destroyed a warehouse Monday night at the Surplus Sales Stores yard at Queen and Punchbowl streets. The damage will run into thousands of dollars but is covered by insurance according to the owners of the S.S.S.

HONOLULU 5th. Spud Murphy, Honolulu business man was charged with the shooting of Ronald Mac Kay, 58. The police were not able to question Mac Kay Tuesday due to his serious condition.

FLORA OF PALMYRA

Banana or Maia.

The banana, the maia of the Hawaiians, is the best known member of the Musaceae or Banana Family. It is strictly native to the tropics of the Old World, where it has been cultivated from prehistoric times. The story of Alexander the Great found it planted on a large scale in the Indus Valley as early as 327 B.C. It was undoubtedly spread throughout the Pacific by the Polynesian and related races. Probably influenced by primitive cultivation and selection, a few distinct kinds of banana have developed into hundreds of varieties and forms, most of which have lost the ability to produce seed.

The banana is a really remarkable plant. It is not a tree, but a giant herb which has no aerial stem for the greater part of its life. The true stem is so contracted that it consists of a massive subterranean structure not unlike that found in the taro plant. From here leaves arise in concentric arrangement, the youngest developing in the center, as in the onion. With the formation of such central leaves, the older ones are forced apart to form, in cross section view, a series of crescents.

The ensheathing stalks of the leaves of the banana form the stem-like structure commonly mistaken for a true tree trunk.

The plants vary in height from about eight feet, in the Chinese banana, (There are only two of this type of banana here) to thirty-five feet, in the feral or banana banana. In most cases the collective bracts covering the staminate flowers fall, but in the Chinese kind the terminal bracts are persistent. The bunches commonly bear five to nine hands, totaling about 250 fruits. In the "King of Thousands", a Malayan banana, the bunch has been known to grow to a length of seven feet and to bear 3000 fruits. At the other extreme comes the lubing of Cochinchina, in which the entire bunch commonly consists of just a single banana not unlike a large cucumber in appearance. The skin of the fruit in the different kinds varies from yellow to red or even green when ripe, while the pulp varies from yellow, pink, salmon to almost white. In consistency the pulp ranges from soft to firm. In many cases the fruit may be eaten raw, such plants are called bananas in the West Indies. Those best suited for cooking, like most of the feral Hawaiian fruits, are generally known as plantains in the same region. All bananas show dark spots, the abortive seeds, in the pulp; or, in very rare cases, have viable seed. These are hard, more or less round, and often angular.

Seventy kinds of bananas were known to the Hawaiians living in the Kona District of the island of Hawaii.
to be continued.

We ran into difficulties last week in printing the paper, as a part of our supplies had developed a bad case of mildew and we had to wait for the mail to be put out. If our circulation does not run over 100 copies per issue, we received enough supplies to last three months, which gives us time to reorder from the mainland. There should be some additional equipment from the mainland in the first Air Mail that arrives. There will be some new features in the near future as soon as our new artist gets settled. There may also be some color features, if we can only get one other of the basic colors. Part of the colors have arrived, when the other will arrive, we cannot say.

We received a card from Jeanie La Foursad. Frank has gone to Wake and she will join in as soon as quarters are available. She is coming with him and says that she is knitting for Brittan, also on the WAGON.

The mail bag has been slim for the past few weeks but we learned that Bill O'loughlin has gone to Guam for CAA.

Fire Chief Rightmeyer and Jensen are busy checking and testing fire equipment. He says that he has not worked so hard in the past five years, even when he was down here last year. Last year he was on leave from Hickam Field and a GUEST ARTIST. This year he is on CAA's payroll and will probably have us in school before long.

A Little Poem by Joyce Anne Mathew
Star light, star bright
First star I see tonight
I wish I may, I wish I might,
Have the wish, I wish tonight.

There are three happy families on Menge Island this week. The Mathews are first as theirs is the largest family and also they had the greatest amount of things on the boat. The Watsons and Redds also received their personal effects.

Steel's post deliveries to Menge Island were up and they did not all go to one house. We don't know who received the most on Cooper but it took three trips from the truck to get it in one place.

The most popular place on Palmyra Tuesday evening was Dottie's and Doc's Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Market. Not a family on the island failed to show up to get some of the fresh fruit and vegetables. Even the children had big eyes when they saw the honey dew melons, fresh tomatoes, celery and lettuce. We don't blame them because it has been two months since any were received here.